
HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH TO CONDUCT A STUDY ON THE
FEASIBILITY OF PROHIBITING SMOKING ON HAWAII'S PUBLIC
BEACHES.

1 WHEREAS, tourism is the mainstay of the state economy, with
2 approximately one out of every three jobs in the State linked
3 directly or indirectly to the tourism industry; and
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5 WHEREAS, for both residents and visitors alike, the State's
6 beautiful beaches and coastlines, clean air, and other renowned
7 natural resources make the Fiftieth State an ideal place to live
8 and visit; and
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10 WHEREAS, according to the 2009 study "Litter in America" by
11 Keep America Beautiful, tobacco products, consisting mainly of
12 cigarette butts, are the most littered item in America,
13 representing nearly 38 percent of all items; and
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15 WHEREAS, Hawaii's famed beaches are littered with cigarette
16 filters, or cigarette butts; and
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18 WHEREAS, as an example, in a recent beach cleanup at
19 Waikiki Beach, 1,500 cigarette butts were collected in a span of
20 one hour, and cigarette butts were reported to be the type of
21 litter found the most; and
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23 WHEREAS, cigarette butts not only contain toxins from
24 tobacco, they are also made of cellulose acetate, a plastic that
25 takes decades to degrade and leaves a toxic residue in the
26 environment that creates a hazard to Hawaii's indigenous species
27 and other wildlife; and
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29 WHEREAS, while there are littering laws, these laws have
30 not been a deterrent to individuals who continue to violate the



1 law, causing significant cost to the State and counties to
2 control litter and other pollutants; and
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4 WHEREAS, from a health perspective, the Centers for Disease
5 Control and Prevention indicates that secondhand smoke exposure
6 causes lung cancer and cardiovascular and respiratory diseases
7 in nonsmoking adults and children, and causes an estimated
8 46,000 heart disease deaths among United States nonsmoking
9 adults each year; and
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11 WHEREAS, there is growing concern that outdoor secondhand
12 smoke can pose a health hazard to both people and the
13 environment; and
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15 WHEREAS, secondhand smoke concentrations in outdoor
16 settings can be comparable to smoke concentrations in indoor
17 settings; and
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19 WHEREAS, there is a compelling basis to institute a smoking
20 ban in outdoor areas and, several cities, including Chicago, Los
21 Angeles, and New York City, have enacted such smoke-free laws;
22 and
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24 WHEREAS, to preserve Hawaii's precious natural resources,
25 natural beauty, and culture for both residents and visitors, it
26 is necessary to start by protecting Hawaii's beaches from the
27 dangers of cigarette smoking and the littering of cigarette
28 butts or filters; now, therefore,
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30 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
31 Twenty-seventh Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular
32 Session of 2013, the Senate concurring, that the Department of
33 Health is requested to conduct a study that examines:
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- 35 (1) The harmful effects of smoking on Hawaii's public
36 beaches, including adverse health and environmental
37 effects, and littering;
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39 (2) The effects of secondhand smoke in outdoor areas such
40 as beaches;
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42 (3) What other states are doing to address the effects of
43 secondhand smoke in outdoor areas such as beaches,
44 including legislation from other states and any plans



H.C.R. NO. 64

1 states have implemented to ban smoking on beaches and
2 the outcome of those plans; and
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- 4 (4) Other options to reduce the harmful effects of smoking
5 on Hawaii's beaches, including adverse health and
6 environmental effects, and littering; and
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8 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Health submit
9 a report of its findings and recommendations, including any
10 proposed legislation, to the Legislature no later than twenty
11 days prior to the convening of the Regular Session of 2014; and
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13 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
14 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Director of Health.
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OFFERED BY: 

MAR 05 2013

